CHEMICAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING CENTER

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CRDEC-TR-138

APPLICATION OF NOVEL DATA PROCESSING TECHNIQUES
TO THE ANALYSIS
OF ION MOBILITY SPECTROMETRY (IMS) DATA

Dennis M. Davis, Ph.D. Robert T. Kroutil, Ph.D.

RESEARCH DIRECTORATE

January 1990



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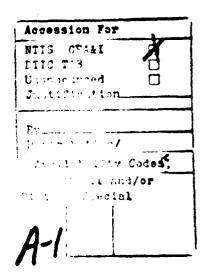
#### PREPACE

The work described in this report was authorized under Project No. 1C162622A553C, Reconnaissance, Detection, and Identification. This work was started in Pebruary 1988 and completed in May 1988.

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APPLICATION OF NOVEL DATA PROCESSING TECHNIQUES TO THE ANALYSIS OF ION MOBILITY SPECTROMETRY (IMS) DATA

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The data processing algorithm is one of the most important components in a detection system. Conventional data processing algorithms often rely on baseline correction techniques to correct for baseline slope before peak picking routines are used. One problem resulting from this baseline correction is the risk of being unable to identify a peak that is either present as a shoulder on another peak or located adjacent to one with much greater magnitude. In the case of chemical agent detectors, it is essential that this type of false negative be avoided. Therefore, an effort has been made to apply novel signal processing techniques to analyze the Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS) spectral signatures to eliminate the baseline correction procedure. Actual IMS signatures generated in tests of the Chemical Agent Monitor (CAM) were used as a data set. This effort was made to determine if several signal processing techniques developed for the XM21 remote chemical sensor1 could be used for the discrimination of IMS or CAM data. This report describes the results of preliminary experiments and is divided into three major areas:

- Transfer of data
- Generation of a database
- Application of novel signal processing techniques

#### 2. DATA MANIPULATION

## 2.1 Data Transfer.

The first major effort was the creation of two data transfer routines. The first data transfer routine was written on an International Business Machines personal computer (IBM-PC) to transfer an entire disk of binary data files collected from a Nicolet 4094A oscilloscope. The data transfer routine between the Nicolet oscilloscope and the IBM-PC was written in a compiled BASIC language. The BASIC language program can read the file from the Nicolet oscilloscope storage device and also store the sequential file of intensity versus relative CAM drift time

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Small, G.W., Kroutil, R.T., Ditillo, J.T., and Loerop, W.R., "Detection of Atmospheric Pollutants by Direct Analysis of Passive Fourier Transform Infrared Interferograms," <u>Anal. Chem.</u> Vol. 60, pp 264-269 (1988).

on the IBM-PC hard disk drive. The data on the IBM-PC was stored in an 8-bit American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) format. The second step of the data transfer process was to transfer the IBM-PC ASCII files to a Honeywell Level 6 minicomputer. This transfer is accomplished through the file transfer routines that are contained in a commercial software package. The commercial software package transferred the ASCII data in serial format at 9600 baud using the protocol KERMIT.

### 2.2 <u>Database Generation</u>.

The second major effort was the generation of an IMS database on the Honeywell Level 6. The database was designed to eventually include all IMS data collected from a variety of sources. Presently, the database includes only a limited number of CAM or IMS spectra that were transferred as a result of this effort (159 spectra). The 159 CAM spectra were created by defining header information for each spectrum to be included in the database. The header information for each file includes the following:

- FILENAME. A description of the file contents.
- RUN NUMBER. Nicolet Disk ID Code.
- AGENT CONCENTRATION. Concentration of the chemical agent.
- INTERFERANT CONCENTRATION. Concentration of the interferant in the study or the concentration of the simulant or compound studied.
- TEMPERATURE. Temperature in the room on the day the spectrum is recorded.
- RELATIVE HUMIDITY. Relative humidity in the room on the day the spectrum is recorded.
  - BAR RESPONSE. CAM response to the vapor challenge.
- MODE. Whether trying to detect nerve agents and positive ions (G Mode) or blister agents and negative ions (H Mode).
- INSTRUMENT SERIAL NUMBER. CAM serial number or other instrument identifier
- OPERATOR. Person who is responsible for recording the spectrum.
- COMMENTS. Any comments the operator deems important about the spectrum.

The header information for the database is stored as free format with a data key at the start of the header information to indicate the number of header fields and their data length. If required, additional header information can be added to the database.

The second step in generating the database is the data reduction process. Data that has been collected on the Nicolet oscilloscope normally has 3968 data points. The data reduction involves decreasing the number of data points in the spectrum from 3968 to 512. The final number of data points is still twice as many data points as used by the CAM algorithm. increase in the number of data points over that used in CAM gives greater resolution in the processed spectra; no new information can be gained by the increased resolution of the data file. The number of data points was selected as a power of two so that many of the XH2l computer programs [e.g., Past Pourier Transforms (FFT), Maximum Entropy Methods (MEM), etc.] could be used on the CAM data. In addition to the deresolution of the Nicolet data, the spectrum was converted by normalizing with respect to the X-axis. To do this, each value on the X-axis was divided by the value position of the reactant ion peak. negative mode spectra, the peak position with the maximum intensity between 6.0 and 7.0 ms was used for the identification of the reactant ion peak. For positive mode data, a value between 6.5 and 7.5 ms drift time was used as a window in which to find the reactant ion peak. This resultant spectrum appears as a pseudo-frequency domain spectrum to the XM21 software. This new spectrum also appears to be a pseudo-reduced mobility spectrum that has a dimensionless X-axis corresponding to a ratio of drift times. Only the data in the range 0.5-3.0 along the ratio of drift time axis are stored. The resolution of the X-axis in the stored data files had a relative ratio of drift time equal This finalized version of the spectrum, along with the header information; is stored in the database for future use. table of contents of the database is included in the Appendix.

## 2.3 Development of Digital Filters.

The third effort in this process is applying novel processing techniques to the CAM data in an attempt to eliminate background features. For this work, we decided to limit the processing techniques to those that were not computer intensive (i.e., those that do not require a large amount of computer processing time). Curve fitting, spectral deconvolution, and digital filtering are among the techniques that fit this The application of curve fitting routines involves criterion. fitting a polynomial expression to the background spectral features and subtracting this expression from the overall spectrum. Typically, this procedure does not work very well because the background features are difficult to fit with a polynomial expression. In addition, in the case of IMS spectra, the spectral features can change as a result of changing the concentration of the challenge. A better approach is the

technique of spectral deconvolution. In spectral deconvolution, an inverse Fourier transform would be applied to a raw IMS spectrum, to create the time-domain spectrum. Subsequently, apodization functions that use the spectral resolution features to select the band, of interest are applied to the spectrum. Another technique similar to spectral deconvolution is digital filtering. Digital filtering has two advantages over spectral deconvolution in that digital filters may be applied to either time- or frequency-domain spectra, and the spectra) cutoff frequencies can be optimized for a given set of conditions. Like spectral deconvolution, the digital filters to be applied in the time domain can be inverse Pourier transformed and applied to the raw spectrum. For this work, digital filtering in the time domain was chosen as the signal processing technique because the routines for applying digital filters already exists within the XM21 software.

Time-domain digital filters are data transforms that operate on time-domain signals in a manner that is dependent on the frequency of the signal. These filters represent standard techniques in signal processing. The simplest form of digital filter, termed a nonrecursive filter, has the form

$$Y^*_{i} = f_1 Y_{1-n} + \dots + f_{n+1} Y_{i} + \dots + f_{2n+1} Y_{i+n}$$
 (1)

where each filtered data point,  $Y_1^*$ , is defined as a sum of 2n+1 terms based on the corresponding raw data point,  $Y_1$ , and the raw data points surrounding  $Y_1$ . Each term is weighed by a different coefficient,  $f_1$  through  $f_{2n+1}$ .

In an interferogram, the raw data are actually a sum of frequencies. The filter acts by suppressing the amplitude of certain frequencies while amplifying others. The values of the coefficients determine the frequency dependence of the digital filter. The procedure for deriving the digital filter must be general and amenable to modification for different target chemical species with correspondingly different characteristic frequencies.

Because XM21 based interferogram software is being used, the derivation of the filter coefficients must begin in the frequency domain. Effectively, a frequency filter is desired that possesses a band-pass centered on a characteristic spectral feature of the target species. The interferogram filter will operate on the interferogram points in the same manner as the

Ochilders, D., and Durling, A., <u>Digital Filtering and Signal Processing</u>, West Publications., St. Paul, MN, 1975.

frequency domain filter operates on the frequency data points. In Fourier terms, the multiplication of the raw spectrum and the filter spectrum in the frequency domain represents a convolution. The analogous action in the time domain involves evaluating the convolution integral of the corresponding time-domain functions. The derived digital filter allows this convolution integral to be approximated. The derivation of the digital filter can be reduced to a search for the set of coefficients that relate the raw and filtered interferograms. Once derived, these coefficients should be applicable to any other interferogram, or rather any CAM frequency-domain spectrum.

An inspection of equation 1 reveals that the nonrecursive filter is merely a linear model that relates a dependent variable, Y\*, to a set of independent variables, Y. The dependent variable is simply the filtered interferogram obtained through the action of the desired frequency filter and subsequent inverse Fourier transformation. The independent variables are defined by the raw unfiltered interferogram points. The computation of the best filter coefficients can be considered a problem in multiple linear regression analysis. The regression analysis was performed using the raw interferogram as the independent variable.

In any multiple regression analysis, the selection of independent variables is an important task. In the current problem, this equates with which data points around the point being filtered will be used in the filtering process. In regression analysis, there are a number of techniques available to aid in this selection (e.g., stepwise regression and best subset regression). For this study, the filter was constructed with consecutive points behind the filtered point. This derived digital filter of points behind the filtered point was used because preliminary results from the XM21 data indicate a filter with a higher R-squared (i.e., a higher correlation coefficient) value can be obtained. Further work on the CAM data needs to focus on the number of points used, the position of the points used, and the type of frequency-domain filtering function. When the filter was derived for the CAM data, consecutive terms were added to the filter until the correlation coefficient in the regression stabilized.

Using digital filtering points behind the point to be filtered yields a modified equation 2 where

$$Y^*_{i} = f_{i}Y_{i-n} + \dots + f_{n+1}Y_{i}$$
 (2)

The optimum filter included 15 terms consisting of the raw data point and the 14 previous data points. The correlation

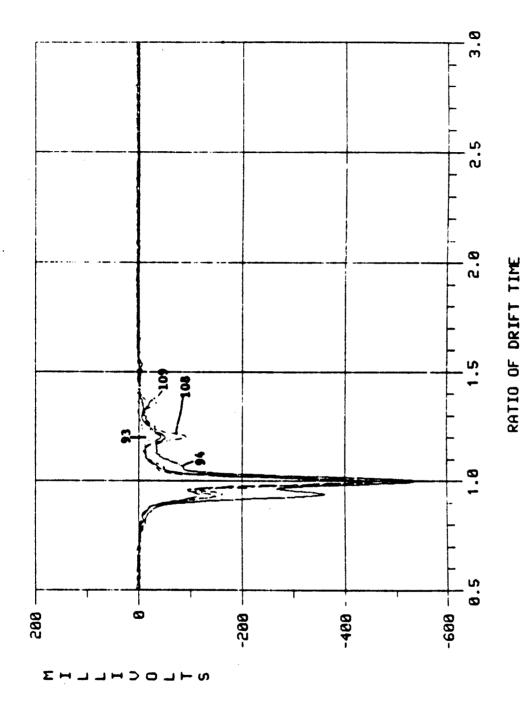
coefficient for the regression was 0.975; whereas, the F value for the significance of the regression was 2.05.

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

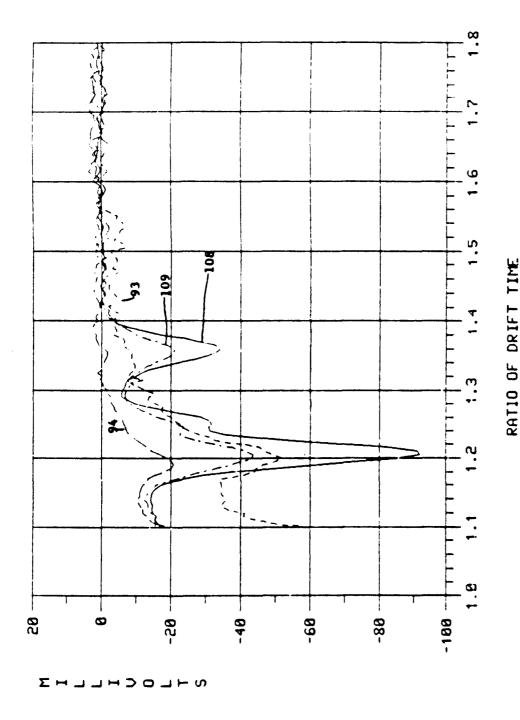
Before any advanced data processing was performed, it was important to know what information was available in the original spectra. Four spectra that are contained in the database are shown in Figure 1. The spectra labeled 93 and 94 are the modified CAM spectra (i.e., those modified for the database as described above) that are obtained when the CAM is exposed to a vapor challenge containing 0.1 µg/L of phenol in air. The CAM exhibited no bar response to the vapor challenge of the phenol at this concentration. Spectra 108 and 109 are the modified CAM spectra that are obtained when the CAM is exposed to a vapor challenge containing 0.1  $\mu g/L$  of phenol and 0.16  $\mu g/L$  of mustard (HD) (bis-dichloroethyl sulfide) in air. The CAM exhibited a 3-bar response to spectrum 108 and a 2-bar response to spectrum 109. As an aid in viewing the spectral detail, an enlargement of the 1.1-1.8 ratio-of-drift-time region of Figure 1 is shown in Figure 2.

To determine the effects of higher concentrations of phenol and/or HD on the spectral features obtained on the CAM, a number of other spectra were obtained. The next four spectra used in this study are shown in Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 shows the modified CAM spectra contained in database files 118, 119, 131, and 133. Spectra 118 and 119 are the spectra that are obtained when the CAM is exposed to a vapor challenge containing 0.3 µg/L of phenol and 0.16 µg/L of HD. The CAM did not exhibit any bar responses to the vapor challenges; an example of a false negative situation. Spectrum 131 is the modified CAM spectrum that was obtained when the CAM was exposed to a vapor challenge containing 1.0 µg/L of phenol and 0.16 µg/L of HD. Again, the CAM exhibited no bar response to the vapor challenge. The last spectrum shown in Figures 3 and 4 is spectrum 133. This modified CAM spectrum was obtained when the CAM was exposed to a vapor challenge containing 1.0  $\mu$ g/L of phenol and 0.4  $\mu$ g/L of The CAM had a 4-bar response to the vapor challenge used for spectrum 133. Figure 4 is an enlargement of the 1.1-1.8 ratio-of-drift-time region of Figure 3.

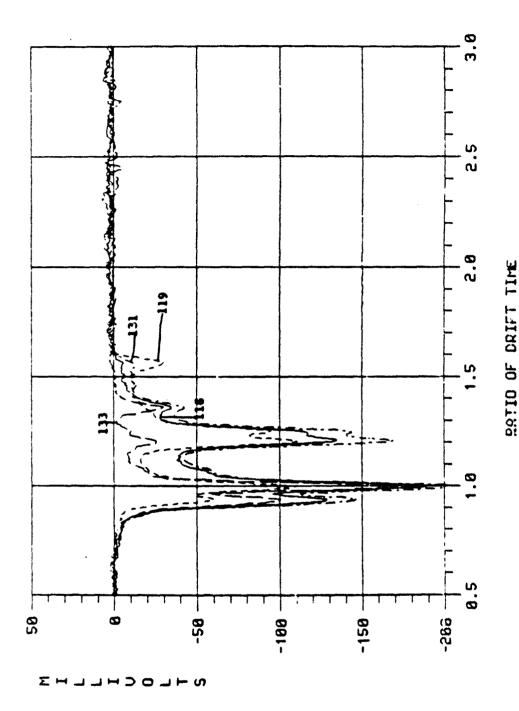
An Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT) has been applied to each spectrum described above, resulting in a time domain spectrum much like one would deal with in infrared spectroscopy. This procedure is performed because the software used in this study has been adapted from infrared spectroscopic studies. Subsequently, an FFT is applied to each spectrum to recreate the initial frequency-domain spectrum. These two manipulations of the original data were performed to aid in the visualization of whether any improvements can be made as a result of a linear digital filter.



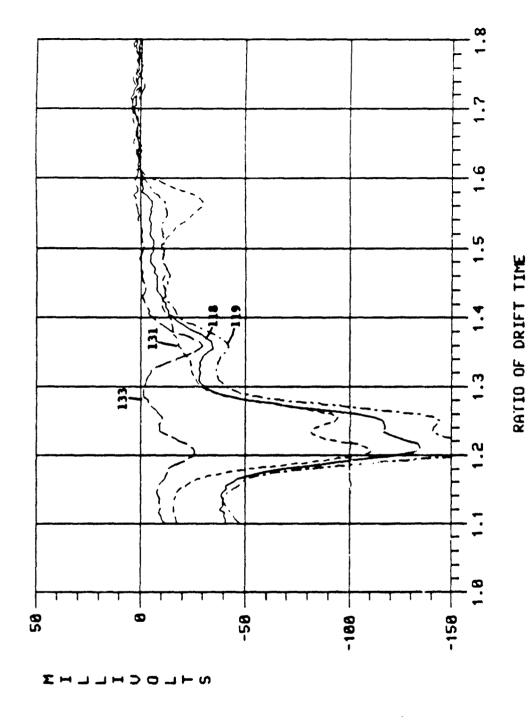
IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD from 0.5 to 3.0 Ratio of Drift Times. The concentration of phenol is 0.1 µg/L of air for all spectra; the concentration of HD is 0.16 µg/L of air for spectra 108 and 109. No HD is present for spectra 93 and 94. Figure 1.



IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD from 1.1 to 1.8 Ratio of Drift Times. The concentration of phenol is 0.1  $\mu g/L$  of air for all spectra; the concentration of HD is 0.16  $\mu g/L$  of air for spectra 108 and 109. No HD is present for spectra 93 and 94. Figure 2.



IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD from 0.5 to 3.0 Ratio of Drift Times. The concentration of HD is 0.16 µg/L of air for spectra 118, 119, and 131, and 0.4 µg/L of air for spectrum 133; the concentration of phenol is 0.3 µg/L of air for spectra 118 and 119 and 1.0 µg/L of air for spectra 131 and 133. Figure 3.



IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD from 1.1 to 1.8 Ratio of Drift Times. The concentration of HD is 0.16 µg/L of air for spectra 118, 119, and 131, and 0.4 µg/L of air for spectrum 133; the concentration of phenol is 0.3 µg/L of air for spectra 118 and 119 and 1.0 µg/L of air for spectra 131 and 133. Figure 4.

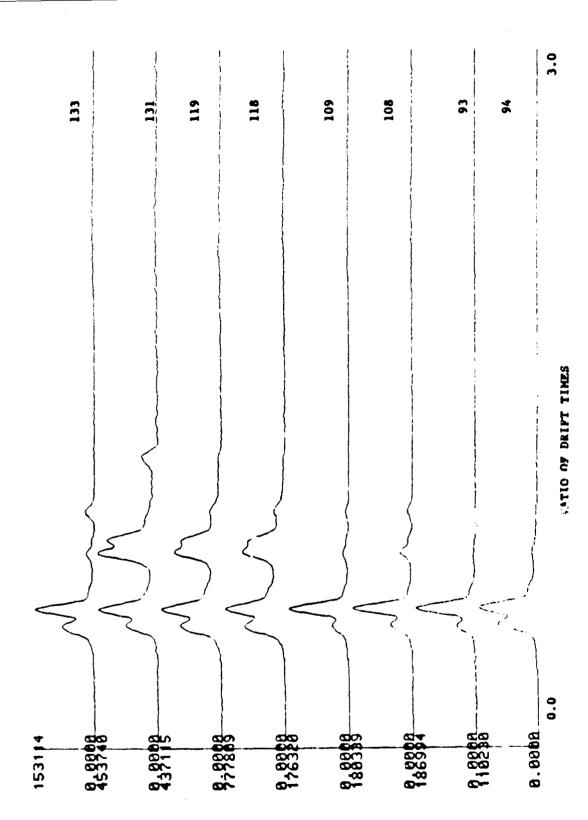
The resultant spectra are shown in a stacked spectrum plot in Figure 5. Each spectrum in the plot has been scaled so that the maximum peak height of any one spectrum is the same as the maximum peak height of all the other spectra. These peak intensities have not been changed, only the plot size. The dashed line in Figures 5 through 8 is located at a ratio-of-drift-time value of 1.39. This is the value at which one would expect to find the HD ion peak. An enlargement of the 1.1-1.8 ratio-of-drift-time region of Figure 5 is shown in Figure 6.

An IFFT has been applied to each spectrum contained in the database to create a time-domain spectrum. A digital filter, corresponding to a Gaussian-shaped peak that is four data points wide and centered at 1.39 on the ratio-of-drift-time axis, was applied to the time-domain spectrum. After the digital filter, an FPN was performed to give a modified IMS spectrum. A stacked plot of all eight spectra, after application of the digital filter, is shown in Figures 7 and 8. Again, each spectrum in the plot has been graphically scaled so that the height of the most intense peak in any one spectrum is the height of the most intense peak in all of the other spectra in the plot. An enlargement of the 1.1-1.8 ratio-of-drift-time region of Figure 7 is shown in Figure 8.

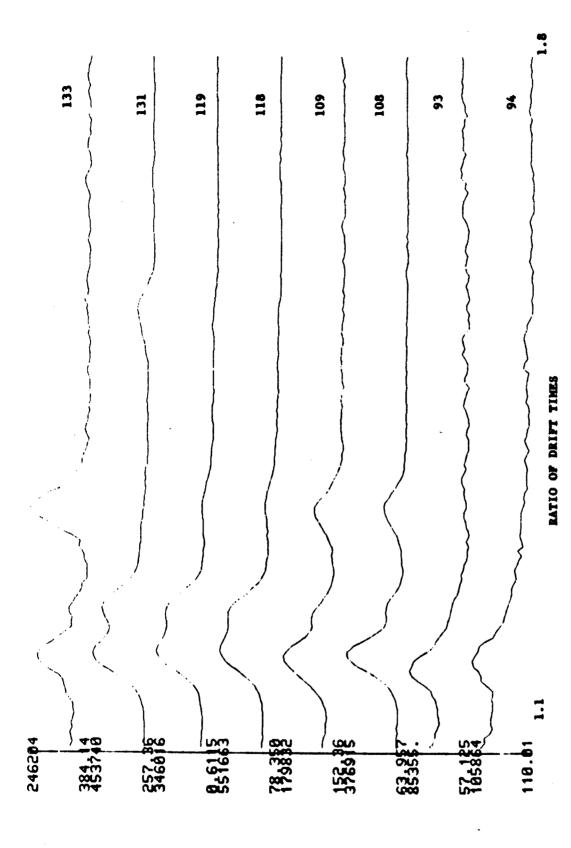
A comparison of Pigures 5 and 7 shows the enhancement that has been gained as a result of the digital filter. In Figure 7, spectra 108, 109, and 133 have, as the major spectral feature, a peak at a ratio of drift time of 1.39. The corresponding spectra in Figure 5 exhibit only minor spectral features at this value of the ratio of drift time. Spectra 118 and 119 in Figure 7 have a peak at a ratio of drift time of 1.39 as one of the two major spectral features; whereas, the corresponding spectra in Figure 5 exhibit only minor spectral features. Spectrum 131 in Figure 7 exhibits what may be a peak at the ratio-of-drift-time value of 1.39; however, at this time, identification of this feature as the HD peak would be difficult. Spectrum 131 in Figure 5 shows no spectral feature at the proper location; therefore, it is impossible to identify the presence of HD. The last spectra shown in Figures 5 and 7, spectra 93 and 94, are noisy after application of the digital filter, as shown in Figure 7. This is because no peak is present in the original spectra at the location of the digital filter.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

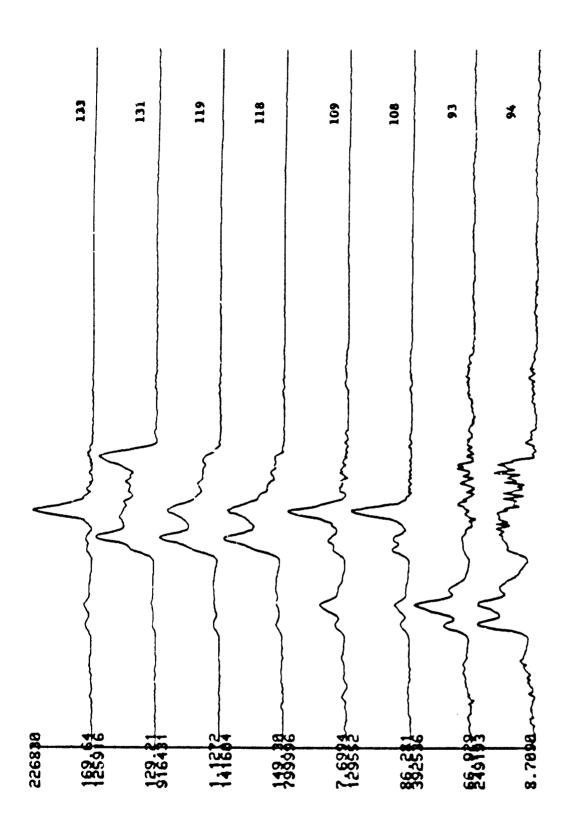
Significant improvement has been shown as a result of applying a simple digital filter to CAM data. It has been demonstrated that in cases in which materials of interest (e.g., HD) are mixed with interferants (e.g., phenol) and the ratio of the HD concentration to phenol concentration ranges from 2:1 to 1:2.5, one can clearly resolve the presence of and identify



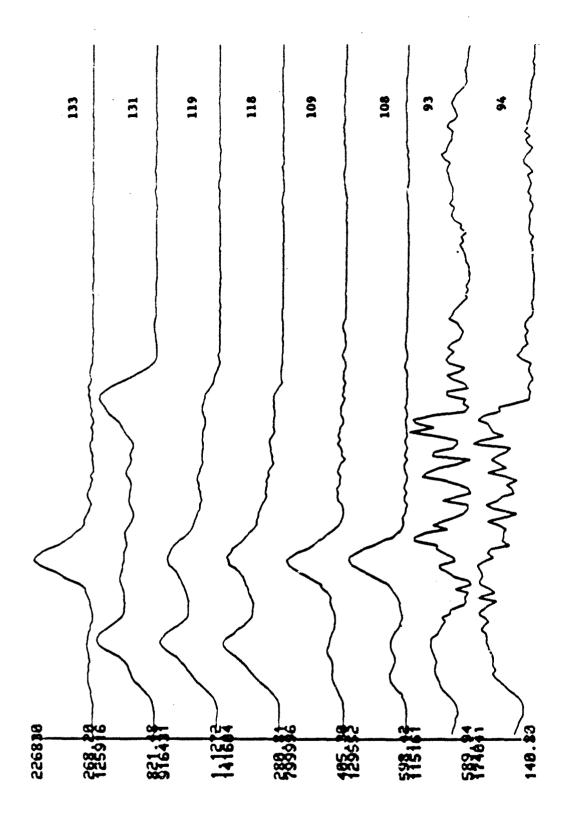
IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD After Application of an IFFT and an FFT. Spectral range for the X-axis is 0.0-3.0 ratio of drift times, and the Y-axis units are arbitrary. Figure 5.



IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD After Application of an IFFT and an FFT. Spectral range for the X-axis is 1.1-1.8 ratio of drift times, and the Y-axis units are arbitrary. Figure 6.



IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD After Application of an IFFT, the Digital Filter, and an FFT. Spectral range for the X-axis is 0.0-3.0 ratio of drift times, and the Y-axis units are arbitrary. Pigure 7.



IMS Spectra of Phenol and HD After Application of an IFFT, the Digital Filter, and an FFT. Spectral range for the X-axis is 1.1-1.8 ratio of drift times, and the Y-axis units are arbitrary. Figure 8.

the HD peak. In more extreme cases where the ratio of the HD concentration to the phenol concentration is on the order of 1:5, less noticeable improvement can be seen (i.e., for this concentration no definitive statements may be made about the absence or presence of the HD peak). For concentrations less than 1:5, it appears that the HD signal does not exist in the data. It might be that no amount of signal processing will extract the HD features when phenol concentrations are greater than five times the HD concentrations.

This preliminary study indicates potential for enhancing the identification of IMS spectral features represented by small peaks adjacent to large peaks or as shoulders on peaks when the small peaks or shoulders are due to ionic species of interest. Future work in this area needs to be directed along the following lines:

- $\bullet$  Using more sophisticated digital filters than those used in this study.
- Providing data smoothing routines for the filtered data to help determine the absence or presence of the HD peak.
- Creating a new software package for locating, identifying, and providing quantitative information about the agent peaks.
- Applying these data processing techniques to other IMS data.

# APPENDIX CONTENTS OF THE IMS/CAM DATABASE

## CONTENTS OF THE IMS/CAM DATABASE

	EA NUMBER	NAME
	BUENOL UABOR	• • • • •
1 2	PHENOL VAPOR PHENOL VAPOR	
3		
4	PHENOL VAPOR	
	PHENOL VAPOR	
5	PHENOL VAPOR	
6	PHENOL VAPOR	
7	PHENOL VAPOR	1 (1.011)
8	DECON KIT PACKET	
9	DECON KIT PACKET	• •
10	DECON KIT PACKET	•
11	DECON KIT PACKET	
12	DECON KIT PACKET	
13	DECON KIT PACKET	•
14	DECON KIT PACKET	
15	DECON KIT PACKET	
16	DECON KIT PACKET	
17		
18	DECON KIT PACKET	
19	DECON KIT PACKET	
20	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (MEDIUM)
21	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
22	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
23	DECON MIT PACKET	i (HIGH)
24	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
25	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
26	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
27	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
28	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
29	DECON KIT PACKET	1 (HIGH)
30	DECON KIT PACKET	
31	DECON KIT PACKET	
32	BLANK - COVER OFF	
33	BLANK - COVER OFF	•
34	BLANK - COVER OFF	
35	BLANK - COVER OFF	ı
36	BLANK - COVER OFF	ı
37	PHENOL VAPOR	
38	MUSTARD VAPOR AND	PHENOL
39	PHENOL VAPOR	
40	THENOL VAPOR	
41	PHENGL AND MUSTAR	D VAPOR
4 2	PHENOL VAPOR	
43	PHENOL AND MUSTAR	D VAPOR
1.4	PHENOL AND MUSTAR	
45	PHENUL AND MUSTAR	

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46
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47
            PHENOL
48
            PHENOL AND MUSTARD VAPOR
49
            UNKNOWN
50
            UNKNOWN
51
            UNKNOWN
52
            UNKNOWN
53
             MUSTARD
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             MUSTARD AND PHENOL VAPOR
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             GENERATOR BLANK
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             GENERATOR BLANK WITH PHENOL
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132	MUSTARD VAPOR
133	PHENOL AND MUSTARD VAPOR
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147	PHENOL VAPOR
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